

that he had carried it during the skating seasons of the last quarter of a century, and had used it serviceably in several instances; and that the statistics of the Skaters' Club of Philadelphia showed that a large number of persons had been rescued by the members, with its aid, of which the late winter had afforded several very remarkable instances; proving that simple means at hand, and ready for instantaneous use, are of more value than the most costly arrangements under other circumstances.

The requisite notice having been given, the Society proceeded to the consideration of the amendment to the laws proposed at last meeting, and the question being taken thereupon, the proposed amendment was agreed to;—making Article 7 of Chapter VIII. read as follows: “He shall receive such annual salary as the Society shall by resolution direct.”

It was then resolved that the salary of the librarian, for the present year, be fixed at one thousand dollars.

Prof. Frazer mentioned that Mr. Thomas Sully was desirous of painting a copy of the portrait of Dr. Robert M. Patterson, late President of the Society, and moved that Mr. Sully have permission to copy the portrait, under the usual conditions:—which motion was agreed to.

Dr. Dunglison having taken the chair, Judge Kane offered the following resolution:—Resolved, That the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, and one or more of the Secretaries be and they are hereby authorized to execute such deeds and conveyances to the Government of the United States, of the Hall now occupied by the Society, as, in the opinion of the Committee referred to in the resolution of the 17th of August last, may be proper for giving effect to the resolution adopted at that meeting:—Which was read, considered and adopted.

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*Stated Meeting, March 21.*

Present, fourteen members.

Dr. DUNGLISON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From Henry W. Field, of London, dated Her Majesty's

Mint, Feb. 22, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of notice of his election as a member of the Society:—

From the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow, dated 17–29 February, 1856, in answer to a letter from this Society of Oct. 19, 1855, on the subject of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Society of Naturalists: and—

From G. C. Swallow, State Geologist of Missouri, dated Columbia, Mo., Feb. 27, 1856, accompanying a donation for the library.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXXI. No. 3. March, 1856. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. V. No. 19. Feb. 1856. Boston. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting a Report from the Register of the Treasury, of the Commerce and Navigation of the United States, for the year ending June 30, 1855. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Hon. J. R. Tyson.*

Mortality Statistics of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: with comparative and illustrative tables. By J. B. De Bow, Superintendent U. S. Census. Washington. 8vo.—*From the same.*

The First and Second Annual Reports of the Geological Survey of Missouri. By G. C. Swallow, State Geologist. Jefferson City, 1855. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

The Practicability of constructing Cannon of great calibre, capable of long continued use under full charges. By Daniel Treadwell, V. P. Am. Acad. &c. Cambridge, 1856. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

The Astronomical Journal. Vol. IV. No. 19. March 19, 1856. Cambridge. 4to.—*From Dr. B. A. Gould, jr. Editor.*

The Rev. Dr. Rogers referred to a former communication made by him on an improvement in the construction of the ordinary carpenters' square. He now exhibited a model of the instrument, and illustrated its use by diagram.

Dr. Emerson, in reference to the peculiar severity of the present winter, remarked upon the character of the first great snow-storm of the season, which consisted of snow of a dry

and granular consistency, and was followed by intense cold. Immediately succeeding the storm, the thermometers indicated a lower degree of temperature to the southward of Philadelphia than to the northward. He attributed to the peculiar character of this snow-storm, the deep and intense freezing of the soil beneath, and the unusual cold of the winter.

The Committee on the sale of the Society's Hall reported articles of an agreement for the sale of the Hall to the Government of the United States, for the purpose of holding courts of justice therein and offices connected therewith:—Which agreement was read, approved, and ordered to be executed.

On motion of Dr. Franklin Bache it was resolved,—That the Secretaries be directed to write to those members appointed to prepare obituary notices prior to 1854, and who have not yet read them, reminding them of their appointment and requesting to be informed when it will be convenient for them to fulfil the duties assigned to them.

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*Stated Meeting, April 4.*

Present, seventeen members.

Dr. DUNGLISON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Statistical Society, dated London, Oct. 11, 1855, acknowledging the receipt of No. 51 of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From the Royal Saxon Society of Sciences, dated Leipzig, Nov. 24, 1855, returning thanks for Proceedings, Jan.—Dec. 1854:—

From the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, dated March 20, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of No. 53 of the Proceedings: and—

From Clement A. Finley, M.D. Surgeon U. S. A. dated Philadelphia, April 4, 1856, presenting a donation for the library, on behalf of Brig. Gen. Lawson, Surgeon General of the U. S. Army.